

## Proposed Cleanup at the General Electric Company (GE), former Dawson Street Plant

### Consent Decree for Submittal of Cleanup and SEPA Documents

The purpose of this document is to invite the public to review and comment on the documents listed below. These documents describe the Department of Ecology's (Ecology) proposed cleanup at the General Electric Company (GE) former Dawson Street Plant. You can find them at

[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/foia/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/foia/index.html).

- Consent Decree
- Draft Cleanup Action Plan
- Feasibility Study (FS) reports
- Groundwater and Indoor Air Remedial Investigation (RI) reports
- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

Ecology will accept and review comments postmarked or hand delivered through January 16, 2014. After reviewing the comments, Ecology will make a decision on these draft documents.

### Site Location and Background

The former General Electric Aircraft Engines Facility was located at 220 South Dawson Street, Seattle, Washington.



#### Comment Period:

December 18, 2013 through  
January 16, 2014

Comments must be postmarked or  
hand delivered by 5:00 p.m.

#### For more information or to submit comments, contact:

Dean Yasuda  
WA Department of Ecology  
Hazardous Waste and Toxics  
Reduction Program  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452  
Phone: (425) 649-7264  
E-mail: [dyas461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dyas461@ecy.wa.gov)

#### Review the information at:

New Holly Library  
7058 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98118

Mon. & Tue., 1-8 p.m.  
Wed. & Thur., 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Or by appointment at:

Department of Ecology  
3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

Phone: (425) 649-7190  
Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To receive a copy by mail, please  
contact Dean Yasuda listed  
above.

#### Special Accommodations

If you require special accommodations  
or need this document in a version for  
the visually impaired call the Hazardous  
Waste and Toxics Reduction Program  
at 360-407-6700.

Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for  
Washington Relay Service. Persons  
with a speech disability, call 877-833-  
6341.



History of 220 South Dawson Street building:

- 1949: GE first occupied the site.
- 1959: Began manufacture and repair of aircraft engine parts.
- 1994: Manufacturing ended; office and warehouse operations continued.
- 1996: GE sold the property and left the site.

Since 1996, the building has been used for various warehousing operations. It is now occupied by another tenant.

While GE produced and tested aircraft parts, hazardous substances were spilled or leaked from sumps and tanks, and entered underlying soils and groundwater. The main contaminants include solvents trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloro-ethylene (PCE), and 1,1,1 - trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA) as well as fuels and oils.

These contaminants are found in the indoor air, soil, and groundwater beneath the 220 South Dawson Street building. The contaminants have also migrated in the groundwater to the west at least as far as Utah Avenue South. Some TCE in the soils and groundwater below the 220 South Dawson Street building changed to a gas and moved upwards through the soil, into the building workspaces.

Under a separate Agreed Order in 2007, Ecology required GE to install a mitigation system to protect the building's occupants from contaminated vapors that come inside from beneath the ground surface.

Under another separate Agreed Order in 2008, Ecology required GE to submit a focused feasibility study (FFS) report to review possible remedial actions to clean up the site. Ecology modified and approved the FFS report in late 2009.

## Consent Decree to Submit Cleanup Action Documents to Ecology

This Consent Decree requires GE to submit to Ecology for review, comment, and approval:

- Bench Scale Test Work Plan
- An engineering design report (EDR).
- Construction plans and specifications (CPS).
- An operation and maintenance/monitoring plan.
- Groundwater, sub-slab vapor, and indoor air monitoring reports.
- A cleanup status report.

These documents will describe the site cleanup of dangerous wastes and dangerous constituents at and from the former 220 South Dawson Street facility. The site remedy requires injection of a water-based oxidizing chemical (permanganate) into the groundwater and surrounding soils. The injections will chemically destroy the site groundwater contamination. The cleanup measures will protect human health and the environment.

## Environmental Review

Ecology is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) lead agency for cleanup decisions at the former GE facility and determined that the proposed cleanup actions will not have a significant adverse environmental effect. As a result, Ecology is issuing a determination of non-significance (DNS). The DNS and SEPA checklist are included for public comment.

## Effective Date of the Consent Decree and Review of Public Comment

Ecology reserves the right to modify or withdraw provisions of this Consent Decree if public comments disclose information indicating the Consent Decree is inadequate or improper in any respect. A public meeting will be held if ten or more people request one by the end of the comment period.

Ecology will consider and respond to written comments submitted by the public. If significant changes are made, an additional public comment period will be held. If significant changes are not made, Ecology will finalize and approve the Consent Decree after the public comment period.

The regulatory requirements for the public review process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) are in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600. See <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-340-600> for more information.

For more information about SEPA and MTCA, go to [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/handbk/hbch10.html#ReviewProcess](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/handbk/hbch10.html#ReviewProcess).

## General Electric Consent Decree Public Notice Glossary

**Consent Decree:** A legal document between Ecology and GE that outlines the process and schedule for cleanup activities at the Site.

**Cleanup Action Plan:** An Ecology approved document that selects the final site cleanup action(s) and specifies cleanup standards and other cleanup requirements.

**Cleanup Standards:** Hazardous concentration limits that protect human health and the environment, the location on the site where those numeric hazardous concentration limits must be met, and additional regulatory requirements.

**Comment Period:** A time when the public can review and comment on documents and proposed actions. For example, a comment period may allow community members to review and comment on proposed cleanup action alternatives and plans.

**DNS:** “Determination of Non-significance” is the written decision by the responsible official of the lead agency that a proposal is not likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

**Groundwater:** Water found beneath the earth’s surface that fills pores between materials such as sand, soil, or gravel. In some places (aquifers), groundwater occurs in quantities sufficient to use for drinking water, irrigation, and other purposes.

**Interim action:** An action necessary to reduce a threat to human health and the environment. This is done by eliminating or substantially reducing one or more pathways for exposure to a hazardous substance at a facility.

**Model Toxics Control Act:** Legislation requiring identification, investigation, and cleanup at facilities where hazardous substances were released. It defines the role of Ecology and invites public involvement in the decision-making process. MTCA regulations are administered by the Department of Ecology. The legislation was passed by citizens of the State of Washington through an initiative in 1988.

**Potentially liable person:** Any person who is responsible for cleaning up a contaminated site.

**Public notice:** Adequate information mailed to people who have made a request of Ecology and to persons in the potentially affected vicinity of the proposed action. Also includes a mailing to appropriate news media, a publication in the local (city and county) newspaper of largest circulation, and the opportunity for the interested persons to comment.

**SEPA:** State Environmental Policy Act: A state policy requiring state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the proposal.

**Tetrachloroethylene (also known as perchloroethylene or PCE):** A solvent used for metal parts cleaners. This chemical causes cancer.

**Trichloroethylene (TCE):** A solvent typically used as a metal parts cleaner. This chemical causes cancer.

**1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA):** A solvent typically used as a metal parts cleaner.





DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

3190 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

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Ecology Seeks Public Comment on  
Consent Decree for:

**General Electric Company (GE)  
Former GE Aircraft Engines Facility  
220 South Dawson Street  
Seattle, Washington 98108-2252**

**Public Comment Period:  
December 18, 2013 through  
January 16, 2014**

**Special Accommodations**

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If you request a public hearing and have a special accommodation need, contact Dean Yasuda at (425) 649-7264 for assistance.

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